

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: October 8, 1999

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on October 1, 1999

FROM: William E. Munro, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Francis X. Lyons
Regional Administrator

David A. Ullrich
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, other significant developments, and training/conferences:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

**Oil Removal Action Initiated, Lake Underground Storage Site,
Painesville Township, Ohio**

On August 13, 1999, the Painesville Township Fire Department responded to a brush/grass fire at the Lake Underground Storage Site (a.k.a. Nacelle Land and Management Corporation), an inactive brine injection facility, in Painesville Township, Ohio. After the fire was extinguished, oil was observed leaking from pipe fittings of two of four abandoned Liquified Petroleum Gasoline (LPG) tanks. The site is located adjacent to the Mentor Marsh State Nature Preserve which empties into Lake Erie.

On August 16, 1999, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA), the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) at the Ohio EPA's request, the U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Office Cleveland, Lake County Health Department, and the Painesville Township Fire Chief observed the leaking LPG tanks. Volumes in the four LPG tanks were estimated at 70,000 gallons. A surface impoundment with a sludge-coated liner contained about 1,000,000 gallons of an oily-water mixture.

On September 16, 1999, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Augustyn obtained Oil Pollution Act funding and an Emergency and Rapid Response Service Contractor mobilized equipment and personnel to

the site to begin removal of oil from the LPG tanks.

Contact: Jim Augustyn (216-522-7260)

Final Design Approved, Reilly Tar & Chemical Superfund Site, Dover, Ohio

On September 28, 1999, the final design for the Reilly Tar & Chemical site in Dover, Ohio, was approved. The remedy calls for the excavation, off-site thermal treatment, and disposal of approximately 3,000 cubic yards of coal tar contaminated soil and sediment; excavation and on-site disposal of approximately 6,000 cubic yards of coal tar contaminated soil and sediment in an on-site building foundation; an Ohio Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA) Subtitle D Solid Waste Cap over on-site disposed soils; a soil cover of the remainder of the site; and, the collection and treatment of perched groundwater. The estimated cost of the remedy is \$3.2 million. Construction is expected to begin in Summer 2000 and end in the Fall.

Contact: Tom Short (312-353-8826)

Action Memorandum Signed, Non-Time Critical Removal Action, Eagle Picher Industries Site, Delta, Ohio

On September 23, 1999, the Superfund Division Director, William E. Munro, signed an Action Memorandum selecting a non-time critical removal action for the Eagle Picher site in Delta, Ohio. Soil at the facility and in many residential yards adjacent to the facility, as well as the sediment and streambank soil of Fewless Creek, are contaminated with metals, including lead. In 1995, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) investigated the facility and referred it to U.S. EPA. In October 1998, the Ohio Department of Health and the Fulton County Health Department blood-lead screening of local children did not find elevated levels. Also in 1998, the potentially responsible parties (PRPs) entered into an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) with U.S. EPA. As a result, on July 19, 1999, U.S. EPA accepted the PRP Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) and the PRPs will conduct the removal action.

The selected removal action includes the excavation and off-site disposal of soil with lead above 400 parts per million from residential areas and the facility, and with lead above 200 parts per million from sediment and streambank soil. The estimated cost of this removal is \$1,625,000.

Contacts: Craig Melodia (312-353-8870)

Matt Ohl (312-886-4442)

Action Memorandum Signed, Non-Time Critical Removal Action, Dover Chemical Corporation Superfund Site, Dover, Ohio

On October 1, 1999, a non-time critical enforcement Action Memorandum was signed. The potential responsible party (PRP) lead removal action will include excavation and off-site treatment and disposal of approximately 11,500 cubic yards of dioxin and volatile organic compound (VOC) contaminated soil and sediment; and, continued operation of an on-site groundwater pump and treatment system. The estimated cost of the remedy is \$23 million.

Contact: Tom Short (312-353-8826)

Record of Decision Signed, Lenz Oil Services, Inc. Superfund Site, Lamont, Illinois

On September 30, 1999, a Record of Decision (ROD) for the Lenz Oil Services, Inc. Superfund site was signed by the Superfund Division Director, William E. Munro. The Phase I remedy is to address the principal threat at the site, which is a layer of light non-aqueous phase liquid floating on, and distributed within, the surficial aquifer. Contaminated material will be excavated and treated (via solidification/stabilization). Treated material will then be put into an on-site corrective action management unit (CAMU). During the Phase I predesign, alternate cleanup approaches will be studied.

For Phase II, a pump-and-treat system was chosen to address contaminants that remain after Phase I. One year of monitoring will help to determine if an alternate Phase II remedy will achieve drinking water requirements within a reasonable time.

Also, on September 30, 1999, a Special Notice Letter was sent out to the Lenz Oil potential responsible parties (PRPs) to initiate remedial design/remedial action (RD/RA) negotiations.

Contacts: Stuart Herish (312-886-6235)
Scott Hansen (312-886-1999)

Five Year Review Completed, New Brighton/Arden Hills Superfund Site, Ramsey County, Minnesota

On September 30, 1999, the first five year review of final remedies at the New Brighton Arden Hills Superfund site has been completed. The five year review was approved and signed by the

U.S. EPA, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and the U.S. Army, which are parties to the Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant Federal Facilities Agreement.

This statutory review was triggered by the remedy selected pursuant to the Operable Unit 3 Record of Decision (ROD), which was signed in September 1992. It encompassed all three of the final remedy RODs for the site, including those for Operable Unit 1 (1993) and Operable Unit 2 (1997). The remedial action (RA) for Operable Unit 1, whose construction start date of 1995 will trigger the next five year review, has already been completed. Construction of the Operable Unit 2 RA's, which began in 1998, will also trigger a five year review in 2003, at which time construction of all site remedies is expected to be complete.

Contact: Tom Barounis (312-353-5577)

Complaint Filed, City of Minneapolis Department of Public Works, Minneapolis, Minnesota

On September 29, 1999, U.S. EPA, Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention, issued an Administrative Complaint against the City of Minneapolis, Minnesota, Department of Public Works, for failing to immediately notify the National Response Center (NRC) of a release of 2,900 pounds of ammonia. Ammonia is a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) hazardous substance with a reportable quantity of 100 pounds. This release was 29 times the reportable quantity. The City of Minneapolis, Department of Public Works, notified the NRC 46 hours and 26 minutes after constructive knowledge of a release of a reportable quantity of ammonia. The release occurred when an employee was bleeding down their ammonia system to replace a faulty gauge. During this process, a back pressure valve failed causing the liquid ammonia to begin vaporizing out of the gauge nipple. Immediately after the release began, employees began fogging the leak with a fire hose to keep the cloud from migrating beyond their Facility's boundaries. U.S. EPA has assessed a \$20,626 penalty. The City of Minneapolis has 30 days to respond to the Complaint.

Contact: Ruth McNamara (312-353-3193)

Meeting to Discuss Derivation of Cleanup Levels, Alsco-Anaconda Superfund Site, Logan, Ohio

On September 16, 1999, Ross del Rosario and Gladys Beard met with representatives from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) and responding parties for the Alsco-Anaconda

Superfund site located in Gnadenhutten, Ohio. The main purpose of the meeting, held in Ohio EPA's Southeast District office in Logan, Ohio, was to discuss the derivation of final cleanup levels for the Alsco site, required by the 1993 Unilateral Administrative Order for the groundwater operable unit. The responding parties proposed that the risk-based cleanup levels be based on a recreational scenario, rather than the more stringent residential scenario prescribed in the Record of Decision (ROD). The responding parties agreed to provide their reasons, in writing. The parties also discussed the possibility of a "global" settlement on all outstanding issues, contingent upon an agreement on the cleanup levels. In the more immediate future, responding parties will provide the regulatory agencies a revised cleanup level document.

Contacts: Ross del Rosario (312-886-6195)
Gladys Beard (312-886-7253)

Groundwater Sampling Oversight, Indiana Jones-Covington Road Site, Fort Wayne, Indiana

On September 22, 1999, Ross del Rosario and Gary Cygan visited the Indiana Jones-Covington Road site in Fort Wayne, Indiana, to observe the groundwater sampling being performed by the potentially responsible parties (PRPs). This sampling event was conducted to assess the effectiveness of natural attenuation (NA) processes to degrade the remaining contaminants. The PRPs are required to evaluate long-term groundwater remediation alternatives under the Administrative Order on Consent for a non-time critical removal action in 1995, which required a soil vapor extraction/dewatering system. The PRP proposal to assess NA was approved in 1998. The assessment will require at least four quarterly rounds of groundwater testing on 17 monitoring wells with the soil vapor extraction/dewatering system shutdown. The PRPs have indicated that a preliminary report, summarizing this sampling round, may be ready in four to six weeks.

Contacts: Ross del Rosario (312-886-6195)
Gary Cygan (312-886-5902)

OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

Two New Computer Applications in Superfund, Chicago, Illinois

On September 30, 1999, the Document Management Section ended its acceptance testing and began full use of the Freedom of Information Act Log (FOIALOG) database. The new database, which

was developed and tested over the past eight months, is fully Y2K (Year 2000) computer compliant, and adds several new features to track more than 3000 FOIA requests a year. In addition, a new version of the MERCURY database, which is used by staff in the Emergency and Enforcement Support Section to track Administrative Orders, was unveiled last month. Additional enhancements for both systems are planned for the coming months. These systems are developed under our Interagency Agreement with the Department of Transportation Volpe National Transportation Systems Center, whose staff and contractors worked closely with us to identify and respond to the users' specific requirements.

Contacts: Seth Dibblee (312-886-5992)
Jim Rittenhouse (312-886-1438)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES

Regional Perspective Presentation, U.S. EPA Headquarters' **Managers Tribal Training, U.S. EPA Headquarters**

On September 23, 1999, Rey Rivera, On-Scene Coordinator and Superfund Division Tribal Contact, participated as an invited speaker for a Tribal training offered to the Managers of the Office of Emergency and Remedial Response, in U.S. EPA Headquarters. The Regional perspective presentation covered two modules of a one-day, four-module training entitled, "Working Effectively with Tribal Governments" that includes: (1) History of Tribal Relationships with the Federal Government, (2) Federal Indian Law and Government Policy, (3) U.S. EPA's Indian Policy and Superfund Tribal Program, and (4) Cultural Orientation and Tips for Working More Effectively with Tribes. In his presentation, Mr. Rivera discussed his experiences in working with tribes in Region 5 in implementing Superfund on Tribal lands.

Contact: Ray Rivera (312-886-1450)

Panel Lead, Technical Outreach Services for Communities **Conference, Washington, D.C.**

From September 27 through 29, 1999, the National Technical Outreach Services for Communities (TOSC) conference was held in Washington, D.C. The conference theme was "Commitments to Communication and Bridging the Digital Divide". The keynote speakers were Tony Davenport, community leader and co-chairman of the Dutch Boy Superfund site, Region 5, and Rosa Hilda Ramos a community activist, Catano, Puerto Rico. Both speakers gave

examples as to how TOSC was helpful in providing technical assistance to their communities.

On Tuesday, September 28, 1999, a panel led by Oliver Warnsley discussed a Community Advisory Group(CAG)/TOSC relationship. In this presentation, Oliver shared the results of a lesson learned study that was conducted on Region 5 CAGs. Kirk Riley, Hazardous Substance Research Center, Michigan State University, spoke about the relationship TOSC had with Geneva and True Temper, Ohio, and Dutch Boy/International Harvester, Chicago, Illinois sites.

TOSC is developing a web page that will include a TOSC Toolkit and information about the TOSC program. Information about the TOSC program can be accessed at: <http://www.TOSCPROGRAM.ORG>. Region 8 has developed a TOSC web page and can be accessed at: <http://www.epa.gov/region8/cross/tosc/tosc.html>

Contact: Oliver Warnsley (312-886-0442)

Domestic Preparedness Chemical Tabletop Exercise, Toledo, Ohio

On September 24, 1999, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Jim Augustyn participated as a player in a chemical incident tabletop exercise to respond to a Weapons of Mass Destruction incident in the City of Toledo. The exercise was the culmination of the week long "train-the-trainer" Emergency Responder Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical (NBC) courses conducted in Toledo. The courses were sponsored by the National Domestic Preparedness Program. The one-day tabletop exercise was conducted to provide local, State, and Federal participants with an opportunity to evaluate current response concepts, plans, and capabilities for a response to a local terrorist chemical incident. The exercise presented a terrorist chemical attack at a Y2K (Year 2000 computer problem) conference being held in a government building. The exercise focused on the City's role in four distinct time frames: warning, notification and response, recovery, and restoration.

Contact: Jim Augustyn (216-522-7260)

cc: Steve Herman (OECA)
Barry Breen (OECA)
Tim Fields (OSWER)
Steve Luftig (OSWER)
Larry Zaragoza (OSWER)
Region 5 State Superfund Coordinators
Division/Office Directors
ORA State Coordinators
Regional Team Managers